

Grievances.

To the King most excellent Maieſtie.

Most gracious Sovereigne, your Majesties most humble commons assembled in Parliament being moved; as wel out of their dutie and zeale to your Maieſtie; as out of the ſenſe of iuſt grieve wherewith your loving ſubjects are generally through the whole Realme at this tyme poſſeſſed, becauſe they perceive their comon & ancient right & libertie to be much declined, & infringed in theſe late yeares; Doe with all dutie & humilitie preſent theſe our iuſt complaints thereof to your gracious viewe, moſt inſtantly craving iuſtice therein and due redreſſe. And although it be true, that many of the particulars, whereof we now complaine, were in ſome uſe in the late Queenes time, & then not much impugned; becauſe the uſage of them, being then more moderate, gave not ſo great occaſion of offence, and conſequent-ly not ſo much cauſe to inquire into the right and validitie of them. Yet the right being now more thoroughly ſcanned, by reaſon of the great miſchiefs, and inconveni-ences which the ſubjects have thereby ſuſtained; wee are very confident, that your Maieſtie wilbe ſo farre from thinking it a point of honour, or greatnes to continue any grievance vpon your people, becauſe you found them begun in ſome of your Predeceſſors times; as you will rather hold it a work of great glorie to reforme them, ſince your Maieſtie knoweth well, that neyther continuance of time, nor errors of men, can or ought to prejudice truth of iuſtice; and that nothing can be more worthy of ſo worthy a King, nor

more answerable to the great wisdom; and goodness which abound in you, then to understand the griefes, & redresse the wrongs of so loyall, and well deserving a people. In this confidence (dread soveraigne) we offer these grievances (the particulars whereof are hereunder set downe) to your gracious consideration, and we offer them out of the greatest loyalty, and due tie that subjects can beare to their Prince. Most humbly and instantly beseeching your Majestie, as well for justice sake (more then which (as we conceiue) in these Petitions we doe not seek) as also for the better assurance of the state, and generall repose of your faithfull & loving subjects, and for testimonie of your gracious acceptation of their full affections, declared as well by their joyfull receiving of your Majesty, at your happy entrance into this kingdom, which you have been often pleased, with favour, to remember; as also by their extraordinary contributions graunted since your time, such as have been never yielded to any former Prince, upon the like termes, and occasions, that we may receive to these our complaints your most gracious answer: which we cannot doubt but will be such, as may be worthy of your princely selfe, and will give satisfactiō, & great comfort to all your loyall, and most dutifull loving subjects, who doe, and will ever pray for the happy preservation of your most royall Majestie.

New Im- **T** He policie and constitution of this your position. kingdome appropriates unto the Kings of this Realme, with the assent of the Parliament, as well the soveraigne power of making lawes, as that of taxing, or imposing upon the subjects goods, or merchandises. Wherein they haue justly such a proprietie, as may not, without their

their consent, be altered, or changed. This is the cause, that the people of this Kingdom, as they ever shewed themselves faithfull, and loving to their Kings, and ready to ayde them in all their just occasions, with voluntarie contributions, so have they been ever carefull to preserve their owne liberties and rights, when any thing hath been done to prejudice or impeach the same. And therefore when their Princes occasioned cyther by their warres or their over great bountie, or by any other necessitie, have, without consent of Parliament, set impositions, cyther within the land, or upon comodities cyther exported, or imported by the Merchantes, they have, in open Parliament, complained of it, in that it was done without their consent. And thereupon never failed to obteyne a speedie, and full redresse without any claime, made by the Kings of any power, or prerogative in that point. And though the laws of propertie be originall, and carefully preserved by the comon lawes of this Realme, which are as ancient as the kingdom it selfe, yet these famous Kings for the better contentment, and assurance of their loving subjects, agreed, that this old fundamentall right should be further declared, and established by act of Parliament. Wherein it is provided, that no such charges should ever be layd upon the people, without their comon consent, as may appeare by sundry records of former times. Wee therefore your Majesties most humble comons assembled in Parliament following the example of this worthy care of our ancestors, and out of a dutie of those for whome we serve, finding that your Majestic without advise or consent of Parliament, hath lately, in time of peace, set both greater impositions, and farre more in number, then any your noble ancestors did ever, in time

of warre, have with all humilitie presumed to present this most iust, and necessarie Petition unto your Ma: That all impositions set without the assent of Parliament may be quite abolished, and taken away, and that your Maiestie in imitation likewise of your noble Progenitors, wilbe pleased, that a law may be made during this session of Parliament, to declare that all Impositions set, or to be set up^d your people their goods or merchandizes, save onely by o^mon consent in Parliament, are, and shalbe void. Wherein your Ma: shal not onely give your subjects good satisfaction in point of their right, but also bring exceeding loy, and comfort to them which now suffer, partly through the abating of the price of native commodities, & partly through the raising of all forraign, to the overthrow of Merchants and shipping, the causing of a generall dearth, & decay of wealth among your people, who wilbe thereby no lesse discouraged, then disabled to supply your Ma: wh^o occasion shal require it.

Commission. **W**hereas by the statute 1. Eliz. cap. 1. intituled an Act restoring to the crown the ecclesiasticall jurisdiction over the state ecclesiasticall, &c. power was given to the Queen, and her successors to constitute, and make a Commissioner in cause ecclesiasticall, the said Act is found to be inconvenient, of dangerous extent in divers respects. First, for that it enableth the making of such a commission as wel to any one subject borne, as to more. Secondly, for that whereas by the intention, and wordes of the sayd statute, ecclesiasticall jurisdiction is restored to the crown, and your highnes

highnes, by that statute inabled to give only such power ecclesiasticall to the sayd cōmissioners, yet under colour of some words in that statute, whereby the Cōmissioners are authorized to execute their Commission according to the tenour, and effect of your highnes letters patents. And by letters patents grounded thereupon, the sayd Cōmissioners doe fine, and imprison, and exercise other authoritie not belonging to the ecclesiasticall iurisdiction restored by that statute, which we conceive to be a great wrong to the subject; And that those Cōmissioners might as well by colour of those words, if they were so authorized by your highnes letters patents, fine without fine, and imprison without limitation of time, as also according to will, and discretion, without any rules of law, spirituall or temporall, adiudge and impose utter confiscation of goods, forfeiture of lands, yea, and the taking away of limme and of life it selfe; & this for any matter whatsoever perteyning to spirituall iurisdiction. Which never was, nor could be meant by the makers of that law. Thirdly for that by the said statute the King, and his successors may (howsoever your Maiestie hath been pleased out of your gracious disposition otherwise to order) make, and direct such Commission into all the Countiees, and Diocesess, yea into every parish of England, and thereby all causes may be taken from ordinarie iurisdiction of Bishops, Chancellors, and Archdeacons, and lay men solely be inabled to excommunicate, & exercise all other censures spiritual. Fourthly for that every petty offence perteyning to spirituall iurisdiction, is, by colour of the sayd wordes, and letters Patents grounded thereupon, made subiect to excommunication and punishment by that strange and exorbitant power, and commission, whereby the least offenders,

offenders, not committing any thing of any enormous, or high nature may be drawne from the most remote places of the kingdome to London; or York, which, is very grievous, and inconuenient. Fifthly for that limie, touching causes subject to this commission, being onely with these words, viz. Such as pertain to spirituall or ecclesiasticall iurisdiction, it is very hard to knowe, what matters, or offences are included in that number. And the rather because it is unknown, what ancient canons, or lawes spirituall are in force, & what not: from whence ariseth great incertaintie, and occasion of contention.

And whereas upon the same statute a commission ecclesiasticall is made; Therein is grievance apprehended thus. First for that thereby the same men have both spirituall and temporall iurisdiction, and may both force the party by oath to accuse himselfe of an offence, & also inquire thereof by a iurie, and lastly may inflict for the same offence, at the same time, and by one and the same sentence, both a spirituall and temporall punishment. Secondly whereas, upon sentences of deprivation, or other spirituall censures given by force of ordinarie iurisdiction, an appeale lyeth for the partie grieved; that is here excluded by expresse wordes of the commission. Also here is to be a tryall by iury, yet no remedy by traverse, nor attain. Neyther can a man have any writ of error, though a iudgement or sentence be given against him, amounting to the taking away of all his goodes, or imprisoning him during life, yea to the attadging him in the case of Praemunire, whereby his lands are forfeited, and he out of the protection of the lawe. Thirdly, that whereas penal lawes, and offences against the same cannot be determined in other courts, or by other persons,

sons, then by those trusted by Parliament with the execution thereof, yet the execution of many such statutes (diverse whereof were made since 1: Eliz.) are cōmended and cōmited to these Cōmissioners ecclesiasticall, who are eyther to inflict the punishment conteyned in the statutes being premunire, and of other high nature, and so to inforce a man upon his own oath to accuse, & expose himself to these punishments, or els to inflict other temporall punishment at their pleasure. And yet besides, and after that done, the partie shalbe subiect in the Courtes mentioned in the Acts, to punishments by the same actes appointed and inflicted; which we think very vnreasonable. Fourthly, that the cōmission giveth authority to inforce men called into question to enter into recognisance not onely for appearance frō time, to time, but also for performance of whatsoever shalbe, by the cōmissioners ordered. And also that it giveth power to enioyne parties defendant, or accused, to pay such fees to ministers of the court, as by the cōmissioners shal be thought fit.

And touching the execution of the cōmission, it is found greivous these wayes among other. First for that laymen are by the Cōmissioners punished for speaking (otherwise then in iudiciall places, and courtes) of the symonie and other misdemeanours of spirituall men, though the thing spoken be true, & the speech tending to the inducing of some condigne punishment. Secondly in that these cōmissioners usually appoint and allow to weomen discontented at, and unwilling to live with their husbands such portions, & allowances for present maintenance, as to them shall seeme fit: to the great encouragement of wives to be disobedient, and contemptuous against their husbands. Thirdly, in that their
Pur-

purſuantes, or other miniſters imployed in the apprehenſion of ſuſpected offenders in any things ſpiritually, & in the ſearching for any ſuppoſed ſcandalous bookes, riſe to breake open mens houſes, cloſets, & deſkes, riſing all corners, and ſeeret cuſtodies, as in caſes of high treaſon, or ſuſpicion thereof. All which premiſſes among other things conſidered, your Maſeſties moſt loyal, and dutifull cōmmons, in all humblenes, beſeech you, that for the eaſing of them, aſwel from the preſent grievance, as from the feare, and poſſibility of greater in tymes future; your highnes would vouchſafe your royall aſſent, and allowance to, and for the ratifying of the ſaide Statute and the reducing thereof, and conſequently of the ſaide commiſſion to reaſonable, and convenient limits, by ſome act to be paſſed in this preſent ſeſſion of Parliament.

Procla- Amongſt many other pointes of happineſſe, & **mati-** freedome, which your Maſeſties ſubjects of **ons.** this kingdome have inioyed under your royall Progenitors, Kings and Queenes of this Realme, there is none which they have accounted more deere, and precious then this, to be guided, and governed by the certaine rule of the law (which giveth both to the head, and members, that which of right belongeth unto them) and not by any vncertaine or arbitrary forme of government. Which, as it hath proceeded from the originall good conſtitution, and temperature of this eſtate: ſo hath it been the principall meanes of upholding the ſame in ſuch ſort, as that their Kings have bene juſt, beloved, happy & glorious, and the kingdome it ſelfe peaceable, flouriſhing

thing and durable so many ages. And the effect, aswell of the contentment that the subjects of this kingdome have taken in this forme of gouernment, as also of the love, respect, and dutie which they haue, by reason of the same, rendred unto their Princes, may appeare in this, That they haue, as occasion hath required, yeelded more extraordinarie and voluntary contributions to assist their Kings, than the subjects of any other knowne kingdome whatsoever. Out of this roote hath growen the indubitable right of the people of this kingdome: not to be made subject to any punishment, that shall extend to their lives, landes, bodie, or goodes, other then such, as are ordeyned by the common lawes of this land, or the statutes made by their common consent in Parliament.

Nevertheless it is apparant both that proclamations have beene, of late yeares, much more frequent, then heretofore, and that they are extended, not onely to the libertie, but also to the goods, inheritances, and livelihood of men, some of them tending to alter some points of the lawe, and make a newe. Other some made, shortly after a session of Parliament, for matter directly rejected in the same session; other appointing punishments to be inflicted before lawfull triall, and conviction; Some cōteyning penalties in forme of penall statutes: Some referring the punishment of offenders to the courts of arbitrary discreuion, which have layd heauie and grievous censures vpon the delinquents: Some, as the Proclamation for starch, accompanied with Letters commaunding inquirie to be made against the transgressors, at the quarter sessions: and some

vouching former proclamations to countenance, and warrant the later, as by a catalogue here vnder written more particularly appeareth. By reason whereof there is a generall feare conceived, and spread amongst your Maiesties people, that proclamations will, by degrees, grow vp, and increase to the strength, and nature of lawes. Whereby, not onely that ancient happynesse, freedom wilbe much blemished (if not quite taken away) which their ancestors haue so long inioyed: but the same may also (in proces of time) bring a new forme of arbitrary government vpon the Realme. And this their feare is the more increased by occasion aswel of certeyn bookes lately published, which ascribe a greater power to Proclamations then heretofore hath been conceived to belong unto them; as also of the care taken to reduce all the proclamations, made since your Maiesties reigne, into one volume; and to print them in such forme as Acts of Parliament formerly have been, & still are vsed to be: which seemeth to imply a purpose to give them more reputation and more establishment, then heretofore they have had. Wee therefore your Maiesties humble subjects the commons in this Parliament assembled, taking these matters into our considerations, and weighing how much it doth concerne your Maistie, both in honour and safetie, that such impressions should not be suffered to settle in your subjects mindes, haue thought it to apperteyne to our duties, as well towards your Maistie; and to those that haue trusted, and sent us to this service, to present unto your Maiesties view these feares, and griefs of your people & to become humble suiters unto your Maistie, that hence forth no fine, or forfeiture of goods, or other pecuniary, or corporall punishment may be inflicted upon your
subjects

subjects (other thā retraint of liberty, which wee also humbly beseech may be, but upon vrgent necessity, and to continue but till other order may be taken by course of law) vnlesse they shall offend against some law or statute of this realme in force, at the tyme of their offence committed. And for the greater assurance, & comfort of your people, That it will please your Majesty to declare your royall pleasure to that purpose, either by some law to be made in this sessiō of Parliamēt: or by some such other course (wherof your people may take knowledge) as to your Princely wisdom shall seeme most convenient.

Proclamations importing alterations of some points of the law, and making new.

11. Ian. 1. la. f. 57. forbiddeth choosing of Knights, & burgeses bankrupt, or outlawed: and commandeth choise of such, as are not only taxed to subsidies, but also have ordinarily payed, and satisfied the same. f. 59. If returnes be made contrary to the proclamation, they are to be rejected, as vnlawfull, and insufficient. f. 60.

25. Aug. 5. la. f. 151. That the proclamation shalbe a warrant to any officer, or subject to seise starch, and to dispose, or destroy any stufte &c. and restraineth all men not licenced to make starch. f. 154.

2. A Proclamation made shortly after
C Parliament

Parliament for matter directly rejected the precedent session.

1. Mar. 1. f. 101. A proclamation for building with brick after a bill to that end rejected.

2. Proclamations touching the freehold, and livelihood of men. 16. Septemb. 1. 12. f. 41. Raising and pulling downe howses authorised, and prohibition to build them againe at any tyme. f. 41. 12. Oct. 5. 12. f. 160. forbidding building and taking away the materials, and appointing the owners land to be let by other men, at what price they please. f. 161.

4. Proclamations referring punishment to be done by Iustices of peace, Majors, Bailives, Constables, & other Officers; or seisure by persons who have no authority to require, heare, and determine of those offences. So it is to be inflicted before lawfull triall & conviction.

8. Jan. 2. 12. f. 72. A Proclamation for folding wools. 23. Aug. 5. 12. f. 151. seisure of starch, &c. f. 154.

5. Proclamations penned with penalties in forme of penal Statutes.

4. No. 1. 12. f. . Paine of confiscation of goods, f. 56. 18. Jan. 2. 12. f. 73. Ten dayes imprisonment & standing in the pillory, f. 73. Iustices of peace to forfeit

10. pounds if they see not the Proclamation of folding wooles executed, f. 75.

23. Aug. 5. 12. f. 151. forfeiture of one moiety of starch &c. sealed &c. 154.

6 Punishment of offenders in courts of arbitrary discretion, as starre chamber,

1. Mar. 2. 12. f. 101. Proclamation for building. f. 101. 12. Oct. 5. 12. 159 Proclam. for building, f. 160. 5. Jul. 6. 12. f. 177. Procl. for starch, f. 180. 25. Jul. 6. 12. f. 180. Procl. for building, f. 181.

7. Proclam. former become Presidents, and vouched in later Proclam.

18 Jun. 2. 12. f. 75. avoucheth r. E. 6. & 4. Eliz. f. 73. 25. Jul. 6. 12. f. 180. mentioneth former Proclam. against buildings, & explaineth, and qualifieth them, f. 180.

Your Majesties commons in this session of Parliament assembled, doe cheerefully acknowledge the spring and fountaine of the publique justice of this state, to be originally in your Ma: from the benefite therof is conveyed, and derived into every member of this politique body by your Highnes writs. Amongst which none are more honourable for the support of the common justice of the realm, then the writs of *prohibition*, *habeas corpus*, &c. *de homine replegiādo*:

Stay of writs of prohibition, &c.

writs have been ever held, and found to be a chief meanes of reliefe vnto the poore distressed, and oppressed subjects of this kingdome, and can be no inconvenience at all. Seing they are no way conclusive against any man, and doo draw no benefit to the procurers, but rather a fruitless charge, if they be obtained vpon any vnjust ground, or pretence. In the free granting of, & proceeding vpon some of which writs, especially that of prohibition; there hath of late, been observed to be some obstruction: by reason, that vpon the complaints and the importunity of some, who desire the support of inferiour courts, against the principall courts of the common law (wherewith your Majesty hath been greatly troubled) you have taken into your royall consideration the severall extents of the jurisdiction of the sayd severall courts. Since which time the said writs have been more sparingly, graunted, and with stricter cautions then anciently hath been accustomed. It is therefore most humbly desired, that it may please your Majestie (whose glory is never more conspicuous, then when the poorest of the commonalty are blessed with the influence of the ancient beames of justice) to require your judges, in the courts of Westminster, to grant the said writs, in cases wherein such writs doe lye, and by law are grantable: And in such sort, as that such persons, whose bodies being eyther committed

mitted to prison, or their causes like to receive great prejudice by proceedings against them, in times of vacation, may not be debarred nor deferred from having the speedy reliefe & benefice of those writs, more then in former times.

For asmuch as the exercise of authoritie over the countie of Gloucester Hereford Wigorne and Salop, by the president, & counsell of Wales by way of instructions, vpon pretext of a statute made in the 34. yeare of the reigne of King Henry the 8. is conceived not to be warranted by that or any other lawe of this Realme of England. And for that in the 2. session of this present parliament, there did a bill pass the house of the Commons, whereby it was declared that the true intent, and meaning of that before mentioned statute, was not thereby to subject these countiees to that kind of government by instructions. And yet notwithstanding the inhabitants of those Countiees are since vtterly discouraged, and in effect, debarred from triall of the right of that kind of jurisdiction over these countiees, by the ordinarie course of the common lawes of this land; by reason of prohibitions, which were heretofore frequently granted (vpon suggestion, that those countiees are not part of Wales or of the marches of the same (which is the very point in question) are now become very hard to

4. Shires.

be obeyned, except in cases, where those of that counsell doe exceed the instructions let downe to them by your Majestie. As also for that, in cases, where actions have been brought at the common law, whereby that question might haue come to dicision, the plainifes haue been stopped, sometimes by injunctions out of your Majesties court of Chancery, from their proceedings sometime before, sometime after judgements, and some time also by imprisonment. The precedent of which proceedings doth concern all your Majesties loyall and dutifull subjects of this kingdome, aswell in respect of the stopping of the free course of iustice: as also, by reason that if that kinde of jurisdiction were at first extended over those 4. countie, and be now still continued without warrant of law: then consequence of this example may, in future times, give countenance to the erecting of like jurisdictions in other places of this Realme. And for asmuch as your Majestie was pleased to commaund all the Iudges to consider of this question, and that they thereupon bestowed very many dayes in hearing the cause argued by learned counsaile on both sides. And in viewing and considering of great numbers of recordes produced before them, concerning that cause: whereby, they have (no doubt) thoroughly informed themselves of the right.

It is, therefore the most humble

humble petition of the commons in this present Parliament assembled, that your most excellent Maiestie will also be pleased to commaund, that the Iudges may deliver their opinion upon that so exact, and deliberate hearing, which was had before them, concerning the right of the foresayd jurisdiction over those 4. Counties by force of that statute. And that the opinion which they shall deliver therein, may be in such sort published, as that all your Maiesties subjects whome it may concerne may have meanes to take knowledge thereof. And that your Ma: will vouchsafe to declare it by your most princely pleasure, that any of your Maiesties subjects who may have occasion thereof may trye his, or their right in that point by due, and ordinarie course of the common lawe, eyther by suing out of prohibitions, or any other your Maiesties writs without restraint. And that if the sayd jurisdiction over those 4. Counties shall appeare to your Maiestie, by the opinion of the Iudges, or otherwise, not to be warranted by law, that then your Maiesty be pleased out of your most princely and gracious favour towards all your loyall, and dutifull subiects, to order the ceasing of the sayde iurisdiction over those counties, to the great comfort of the inhabitants of those counties, and the rest of your Maiesties subiects of all the kingdome.

*New dra-
pery.*

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Complaint was made, in all humble manner, the second session of this present Parliament, of many disorders, outrages, & oppressions committed upon occasion of letters patents granted to the Duke of Lennox, for the searching, and sealing of stuffs, and manufactures, called by the name of *new draperie*: which patent wee held in all, or the most partes of it, to be questionable, and in many apparantly vnlawfull: and the execution thereof we found stretched by the farmers, and deputies beyond the extent of the sayd letters patents, as appears in the particulars set downe in the said greivance. To which it pleased your Majestie to give this gracious answer, that the validitie of the sayd patent should be left to be judged by the law. And whensoever any abuse arising in the execution thereof should appeare, it should be severely punished. Which was, for that time, to our good satisfaction: yet finding, by divers complaints made now in Parliament, that not only the said letters patents are still in force, and the validity of them undecided by iudgement: but disorders in the execution of them are so farre off from being reformed, that they multiply every day to the grievance of your Majesties subiects. And those of the poorer sort, who exercising these manufactures are subiect to much oppressio, to the great hindrance of some, &

utter

utter undoing of many as hath appeared in the particularities of the complaints presented unto us. Our humble desire is, that your Ma: wil be pleased, according to your former resolutiō, to give order, that this cause, which hath thus long hung in suspence, be speedily brought to iudgement: and that before all the Iudges, because it concernes all the subjects of the land. And, in the meane time, that the execution of the said letters patents, so farre forth as they concerne the said new draperies, may be suspended till iudgement be given: whereby your subiectes, who doe in all humilitie present this grievance unto your Maieslie may be relieved, & haue no occasion to reiterate their complaints.

Whereas by ancient, and late statutes it hath been enacted, that wines should be retayled at such lowe rates, and prices, as for these 50 yeares last past they could not be afforded. And for redresse thereof it was ordeyned by a statute, in the 5. yearn of the late Queene Elizabeth, that (those former lawes notwithstanding) wines might be solde at such prices, as by Proclamation from time to time to be made by consent of diuers great officers, should be published, and set downe: which proclamation nevertheless, the late Queen, & your most excellent Ma: have been drawn to forbear, upō the earnest sute of certein persons,

*License of
Wines.*

A 5 who therein

therein onely intended their private gaine :
 By reason whereof, both great summs of mo-
 ny in fines, rentes, and annuall paymen-
 have been gotten, and rayled vnto the said
 persons, and their assignes, and great damage
 and preiudice hath likewise fallen, and light
 vpon your people, not onely by inhancing
 the prices of wines, licencing over many Ta-
 vernes, and appointing of vnmeet persons,
 in vnfit places, to keepe the same : But also
 by reason that corrupt, mingled, evill, and
 vnwholesome wines have been vitered, and
 solde to the great hurt of the health of your
 Highnes people. One man sometimes in-
 grossing all the Licences designed for that
 place : Wherevpon complaint being made
 to your Maiestie, amongst other grievances
 of your people, in the second session of this
 present Parliament, your Highnes was plea-
 sed to answer, that your grants in that be-
 halfe were no other, then such as were
 warrantable by the law. Whereas the grei-
 vance was the greater, for that all lawes, co-
 cerning the sale of wines, being intended,
 and conceived to stand, & be repealed, there
 were neverthelesse, by the oversight of
 them which were trusted in that businesse,
 casually omitted, and left vnrepealed cer-
 taine absolute lawes impossible to be obser-
 ved : as namely one made in the time of K.
 Edward the first, commanding wines to be
 sold at 12. pence the sexterie, and one o-
 ther the

ther made in the 18. of K. Henry the eight
 prohibiting all persons, vnder penalty, to
 sell any french wines above 8. pence the
 gallon, and other wines, as secks, and sweet
 wines above 12. pence the gallon: and one
 branch of a statute made in the 7. yeare of
 K. Edward the 6. prohibiting men to sell
 any wines by retails in their howses.
 Wherevpon your Maiesty hath been indu-
 ced and drawne to ground new patents of
 dispensation, and to grant the benefit there-
 of vnto the Lord Admirall: whereby the
 like discommodities and inconueniences
 have sithence insued vnto the common-
 wealth as formerly did arise and growe vp-
 on the other repealed lawes, whercof, in
 the former petitions of your subiects exhi-
 bited vnto your Maiesty in the sayd second
 session, your highnes never had any direct,
 and cleare information. May it therefore
 please your most excellent Maiesty at the
 humble request of your commons (who
 have taken into consideration the great
 charges, and expences, which the sayd L.
 Admirall hath been at, in your Maiesties
 service, and have considered likewise the
 present licences, and grants for valuable
 consideration vnto many hundreth of your
 Highnes subiects, which without great
 losse to the sayd grantees, cannot be so
 suddenly made void) out of your Princely
 wisdom, and goodnes, wherein you have
 professed

professed not to extend, & straine your prerogative royall against the publique good of your people, for the particular gaine of any private persons, To vouchsafe, that from hence forwards, there may no more be granted, of that nature, be made vnto any of your subiects whomsoever. But that the sayd statute of s. Elizabeth, for the apprising of wines, to be published by proclamation, at time, and occasion shall require, may be put in execution. And that your Maiesty will likewise vouchsafe to grant your royall assent to a bill of repeale of the sayd obsolete statutes, and all other, wherevpon any such, *Non obstantes*, & dispensations might be grounded vpon. In which statute of repeale proviso shalbe made for the indemnitie of all such, as vnder your Maiesties great seale have already procured licence for such sale of wines.

Alsbonse

Whereas, by the lawes of this your Maiesties realme of England no taxes, aides, or impositions of any kinde whatsoever, ought, or can be laid, and imposed vpon your people, or vpon any of their goods, or commodities, but onely by authority and consent of Parliament. Which being vndoubtedly the ancient, and fundamentall law of the land, is yet, for more abundant clearnes expressly declared in sundry acts of Parliament, made and enacted in the time of sundry your Maiesties Progenitors, the noblest, & most prudent

prudent Kings of this Realme. Yur comos
 with iust griefe doe complaine vnto your
 Maiefty of the late taxe, and imposition laid,
 and imposed yearly vpon such, as are al-
 lowed to keep victualing houses, or sell ale,
 and beere bee retaile. Which imposition
 not being taxed by assent of parliament, but
 commanded, and directed onely by letters,
 and instructions, your commons are perswa-
 ded that the same proceeded rather vpon
 misinformation, then by the direction, and
 judgement of your owne most noble & roy-
 all heart. Wherefore your said commons
 knowing the griefe of your people in this
 behalfe, do (according to their duties) in all
 humilitie informe, and signify vnto your
 Maiestie first, that the said taxation being
 singular, and without example, is in it
 self a President of dangerous consequence,
 and (as your people feare) may easily (in
 time) be extended further, as to badgers of
 corne, makers of malt, drovers of cattel, and
 such like, who, in such sort, are to be li-
 cenced by Iustices of peace, as those persons
 are, upon whom, at this time, this present
 charge and tax is layd. Secondly such how-
 ses, being often times at (the best) the har-
 bours of idlenes, drunkennes, whoredome,
 & all maner of felonies, the licences are now
 (the honestest sort, in most places, refusing
 to vndergo the new charge) rented, & taken
 by

by the looser, and baser sort of people, who have no conscience how they gaue, By reason whereof all manner of vice, and evil behaviour is likely every day to encrease: neither can the Iustices of peace conveniently prevent the same: for that the persons licenced under the late contribution, affirme, with clamour, that they have a toleration for a yeare, and that such persons are not friends unto the crowne, that seeke to suppress them, and thereby to diminish your highnes revenues. Thirdly many Iustices of peace, (being sworn to execute their office) which for this particular they conceive to be, that alehouse keepers formerly licenced, are not to be suppressed without iust, and reasonable cause, cannot be satisfied touching their sayd oath, but are much distracted, and perplexed what to doe (the late instructions notwithstanding) against such persons, as otherwise being not knowen to be of evil behaviour, onely refuse to pay this late taxed and imposed some of money. In consideration whereof, your humble comons most instantly beseech your most excellent Maiestie that the former letters, and instructions may be countermaunded, or stayed, and all further directions, and proceedings in that kinde forborne.

Sea-coale.

Among many resemblances, which are observed to be between naturall and politique bodies, there is none more apt, and na-

tural then this, That the diseases of both doe not, at one instant, cōmonly (cuse vpon all partes: but beginning in some one part, doe, by tract of time, and by degrees, get possession of the whole, unless by applying of wholesome and proper remedies, in due time, they be prevented. Which as it is in many things very visible. so it is in nothing more apparant, then in this matter of impositions: which beginning at the firste eyther with forreigne commodities brought in, or such of our owne, as were transported, is now extended to those commodities, which growing in this kingdome, are not transported, but uttered to the subjects of the same: for prooffe whereof, wee doe, with all humilitie present unto your Ma: view the late imposition of 12. pence the chalder of seacole rising in Blith & Sunderland, nor by vertue of any contract, or grant (as in the coales of New castle) but under a meer pretext of your Majesties most royall prerogative; which imposition is not onely grievous for the present (especially to thole of the poorer sort, the price of whose onely, and most necessarie fewell is thereby, to their great grieve, inhaunced) but dangerous also for the future; considering that the reason of this present may be extended to all the commodities of this kingdome. May it therefore please your most excellent Maiestie, who is the great,

great, and soveraigne physicion of this estate
to apply such a remedie as this disease may
be presently cured, and all diseases for tyme
to come, of like nature, prevented.

*These grievances were Presented to his Maiesky with
speech of Sir Fr. Bacon, by
12. of the lower house. 7. July 1610. in the 4. session of
Parliament; Because the
King commanded 12. and
no more, &c.*